

**Feather River Flood Management Workshop  
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)  
December 17, 2001  
Eagles Hall, 2010 Montgomery Street, Oroville**

**Summary**

**Attendance:** 30

**Participation**

**National:** National Marine and Fisheries Service  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**State:** California Water Commission  
Department of Water Resources  
Department of Water Resources Consultant Team - SWRI

**Local** Butte County  
Sutter County  
Yuba City

**Water Agencies/Contractors**

State Water Contractors  
Reclamation District 784  
Metropolitan Water District  
Yuba County Water Agency  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Oroville Wyandott Irrigation District (OWID)

**Private** JEM Farms  
General Public

**Presenting Agencies:**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Department of Water Resources  
Yuba County Water Agency  
Bookman Edmonston

**Studies and programs Covered:**

1. Comprehensive Study
2. Yuba Feather Flood Protection Program, (Prop. 13)
3. Yuba-Feather Supplemental Flood Control Project
4. Feather River Floodplain Mapping
5. Yuba Basin Investigations & Sutter County Feasibility Study
6. PMF Study
7. Flood Operations and Flood Operations Manual

## **Highlights**

### **Comprehensive Study**

- The goal is flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration.
- The study uses CALFED criteria, goals and objectives.
- Trying to properly guide local agencies for floodplain management.
- Evaluating feasibility of restoring the natural bypasses on the Feather River.
- Would give the work group access to the model determining 200,000 ac-ft of storage. The runs are preliminary and there is a lot of room for adjusting.

### **Yuba-Feather Supplemental Flood Control Project**

- A flood control only, not flood conservation study.
- Not looking at 1 in 500 year protection, as the funding is not available.
- Construction of the Marysville Dam is not feasible, (Endangered Species Act), although it would control the Yuba River. Marysville Dam may cost \$900 million, including pumpback capacity for power generation.

**Coordination between the above studies:** Joe Countryman is working with Floodplain Management Studies. USACOE is also communicating with Joe Countryman.

### **Feather River Floodplain Mapping**

- FEMA would publish the inundation maps in a year or two.
- Using the combined flow of Feather and Yuba River for the mapping.
- Questions about the basis of 150,000 cfs out flow.

### **Comment by participants**

- Need more natural bypasses to reduce pressure from the downstream areas.
- After a while, the levee soaks up the water and can no longer contain the flows. Need a study to determine how long we can leave the water level before levee integrity is lost.

### **Flood Operations and Flood Operations Manual**

Gary Hester (DWR) -Flood Forecasting Program.

Laurine White (USACE ) Flood Control Manual

- Current procedures use some forecasting
- Since the 1997 flood, streams have been instrumented more heavily than before. Investment in instrumentation is encouraged, but it does not buy a lot in overall flood protection

### **Updating the Flood Operations Manual:**

- It is planned for 2006. It is supposed to be done every 10 years but USACOE have been unable to keep this schedule.
- Must review everything and determine what will and will not need updating.
- The Manual currently includes Marysville Dam, but once updated it will not.

- National Marine Fisheries Service asked for more discussions on environmental impacts (geomorphic processes) on a regulated river system and beneficial floods.

### **Forecast Based Operations**

- YFFP reviewed number of methodologies for advanced flow releases.
- The runs in YFFP studies are preliminary, sensitive to the water users and are not definitive. Impact on water rights on the Yuba River is a concern.
- Yuba studies will determine what other data collection is necessary.
- USACOE is working with weather bureau for state of the art technologies.
- USACOE is looking for funds for future studies to redefine the parameters.
- USACOE can probably make the program work locally if small changes are made. However, substantial change in the reservoir operations would require lot more negotiations. Approval from Washington D.C. may be needed.